

BLUEPRINTS PREFACE  
STAR PROGRAM CALIFORNIA STANDARDS TESTS  
HISTORY-SOCIAL SCIENCE

These are the California Standards Test blueprints for the 2003 History-Social Science tests in grades 8, 10, and 11. These are the only tests and grade levels included in the California STAR testing program for history-social science.

Important changes have occurred in statewide history-social science testing. Beginning in 2003, there will no longer be a norm-referenced test like the SAT-9 given in history-social science. The former grade 9 history-social science standards test was also eliminated. It is being replaced with the new grade 8 standards test.

The grade 8 test differs in the number of items from grades 10 and 11. Because the 8<sup>th</sup> grade test covers the standards from grades 6, 7, and 8 it is necessary to utilize 75 items in order to gain sufficient coverage of the standards in those three grades. The exams in grades 10 and 11 are specific only to the standards in each of those grades and remain at 60 items for each test.

Each blueprint divides the content standards for that test into five clusters. Those clusters will be reported as sub-scores in the test results so that broad-subject area strengths and weaknesses can be determined. Although the clusters in blueprints for Grades 8 and 10 follow the numerical sequence of the standards tested, in grade 11 Clusters 1, 2, 4 and 5 vary the sequence in order to make the cluster subject matter more complementary.